

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 2287

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SCUL, SHUM, CU, GW, UK
SUBJECT: WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL: BRITISH AND GERMANS RAISE SOVIET
HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: HAVANA 2277

1. SUMMARY: BRITISH AND WEST GERMAN DELEGATIONS HAVE MADE REFERENCE TO SOVIET/EE HUMAN RIGHTS IN POLITICAL COMMISSION SESSION OR BELI-TERALS. THESE REMARKS HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO ATTACK BOTH BY ORTHODOX COMMUNIST ELEMENTS WITHIN THEIR OWN DELEGATIONS AND BY SOVIET/EE AND CUBAN REPRESENTATIVES. END SUMMARY.

2. BRITISH DELEGATION REFERRED TO SOVIET/EE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM IN A CLOSED MEETING OF ONE OF THE YOUTH FESTIVAL POLITICAL COMMISSIONS. (THE BRITISH EMBASSY BELIEVES THE SHCHARANSKIY CASE WAS SPECIFICALLY CITED.) BRITISH STATEMENT, WHICH WAS REPORTEDLY LARGELY CONFIDENTIAL

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ANODYNE APPARENTLY NEVERTHELESS PROVOKED FURY OF SOVIET/EE DELEGATIONS WHO SUBSEQUENTLY CRITICIZED BRITISH POSITION FOR THREE DAYS RUNNING. (FYI POLITICAL COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS ALLOW EACH NATIONAL DELEGATION TO MAKE ONLY ONE INTERVENTION PER DAY ON ESTABLISHED AGENDA TOPIC, BASED ON PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED TEXTS. RIGHT OF REPLY IS NOT PERMITTED. THEREFORE, NORMAL DISCUSSION OR DEBATE CANNOT TAKE PLACE. END FYI.) BESIDES SOVIET/EE CRITICISM

AND BLANDISHMENTS, (STALINIST" ORTHODOX COMMUNIST COMPONENT OF BRITISH DELEGATION ISSUED A WRITTEN DECLARATION DISSOCIATING ITSELF FROM BRITISH HUMAN RIGHTS STATEMENTS.

3. WEST GERMAN DELEGATION (ABOUT 40 PERCENT ORTHODOX COMMUNIST, WITH REMAINING MEMBERS MAINLY SPD AND FDP YOUTH) HAS BROUGHT UP HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION IN ITS CONTACTS WITH GDR DELEGATION AND, IN SO DOING, HAS BLOCKED HOLDING OF BILATERAL MEETING WITH THAT GROUP. AT FIRST, FRG DELEGATION ASKED TO DISCUSS BAHRO (GDR DISSIDENT) CASE WITH EAST GERMANS AND, AFTER LATTER REFUSED, EFFORT WAS MADE TO HOLD DISCUSSION ON HELSINKI DECLARATION. GDR DELEGATION ALSO REBUFFED THIS SUGGESTION. NO INDICATION HAS YET BEEN RECEIVED THAT GERMANS RAISED SOVIET/EE HUMAN RIGHTS IN GENERAL POLITICAL COMMISSION MEETINGS.

4. COMMENT: WHILE INDIVIDUAL BRITISH AND WEST GERMAN DELEGATION MEMBERS ARE PLAYING UP THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS INTERVENTIONS, SPEECHES AND POSITIONS MAY LARGELY BE RITUALISTIC - DESPITE AROUSED REACTION OF COMMUNISTS. SOME BRITISH DELEGATES, FOR EXAMPLE, APPARENTLY WANT SIMPLY TO PROTECT THEIR POLITICAL FUTURES BY CLAIMING TO HAVE RAISED HUMAN RIGHTS IN HAVANA. AS FOR DELEGATION OF FRG, WHOSE RULING SPD HAS TAKEN BENEVOLENT POSTURE TOWARD FESTIVAL PARTICIPATION (IN CONTRAST TO FRENCH SOCIALISTS WHO REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE OFFICIALLY), DELEGATES APPARENTLY FEEL OBLIGED TO RAISE HUMAN RIGHTS TO JUSTIFY THEIR ATTENDANCE. BUT MAJOR, IF NOT DOMINANT, NOTE IS STRUCK BY INDIVIDUALS SUCH AS ULTRA-LEFT
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SPD FIGURE ERICH MEINEKE, WHO IN HIS OFFICIAL DELEGATION-SPONSORED POLITICAL COMMISSION SPEECH, CALLED FOR DESTRUCTION OF CAPITALISM AND PERPETUAL BANNING OF NEUTRON BOMB, BUT HAD NO CRITICISM OF SOVIETS.

5. FYI THERE ARE SOME LATE INDICATIONS THAT SOVIETS/ CUBANS ARE MOVING AWAY FROM IDEA OF HAVING EACH NATIONAL DELEGATION ISSUE FINAL DECLARATION (SEE REFTEL). IF THIS TURNS OUT TO BE CASE, THERE MAY BE NO FINAL DOCUMENT OR ONLY HIGHLY GENERAL COMMUNIQUE. END FYI.
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